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SOURCE Taiwan Hsin-cheng Pao (Taiwan New Life Daily), No 1104, 1948.
(Information requested.)

TAIWAN QUININE INDUSTRY

At present, China is largely dependent on foreign imports to meet domestic quinine requirements. She may soon produce her own supply, however, through development of the quinine industry in Taiwan.

The cinchona ledgeriana and cinchona succirubra transplanted from Java are the two species of quinine trees found most abundant in Taiwan. Because of the relative small amount of alkaloid content found in the cinchona barks in Taiwan, it is claimed that the quality of the quinine manufactured in the province is much superior to that of Java. A chemical analysis of quinine produced from both areas revealed that Taiwan manufactured quinine contained only 3-6 percent alkaloid, as compared to Java's 5-9 percent. This relatively small quantity of alkaloid content found in the quinine manufactured in Taiwan may be attributed to the comparatively short period of time since the planting of Taiwan quinine trees [sic].

Despite the fact that Taiwan already has a relatively large area of land under quinine cultivation, the Medical Supplies Company, a government-controlled enterprise, has undertaken the development of the following quinine plantations:

1. Shinhiku (Hsin-ohu) Plantation, located in Chikusan (Chu-shan) Chu, Taiwan (T'ai-ohung) Hsien, occupies an area of about 220 acres, containing some 40,000 cinchona trees.
2. Daibu (Ta-wu) Plantation, located in Taifo (T'ai-tung) Village, Taifo Hsien, occupies an area of about 1,780 acres, containing 130,000 cinchona trees. A nursery for the production of seedlings has also been established.
3. Kansen (K'uan-shan) Plantation, located in Kansen Chu Takao (Kao-hsiung) Hsien, occupies an area of 4,375 acres, containing 270,000 cinchona trees.

In addition to the above plantations, this company has undertaken the development of the Hsing Plantation located in Taifo Hsien. Although plans are still in the preliminary stage, it is expected that this plantation will soon be enlarged to become the largest quinine plantation in Taiwan. To date some 100,000 cinchona trees have been planted on the 14,000 acres of land to be brought under cultivation.

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The four existing Taiwan quinine-manufacturing factories listed below are all under the control of the Medical Supplies Company: Taihoku (T'ai-pe1), Byeto (Miao-li), Shinei (Hsin-ying), and Kagi (Chia-i) factories. In the past, quinine was processed, for the most part, by the Taihoku and Shinei factories. However, since the Taihoku Factory's facilities have not yet been fully restored, the refining is now being done by the Shinei Factory.

In view of the present scarcity of world quinine supply, plans were recently made by provincial authorities to expand this enterprise. In June of this year, a special request was made to the Taiwan Bank by our provincial authorities to grant a 74 million (Taiwan) yuan loan to the Medical Supplies Company so that it might undertake large-scale development plans. At present, this company is growing some 1,300,000 cinchona trees throughout its plantations and is capable of harvesting about 10 tons of cinchona bark per month. Since its reorganization in June 1948, monthly production of quinine has been increasing as follows (amounts in kilograms): April, 259; May, 42; June, 31; July, 184; August, 300; and September, 400.

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